

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. This amendment and reply is being filed with a Request For Continued Examination (RCE). Claims 1, 12, 13, 15, 20, 29, 30, 32, 37, 40 and 41 have been amended to further define the invention. Claims 1, 3-20, 22-37 and 40-45 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-16, 20, 22-37 and 40-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer et al. (“Bauer,” U.S. Patent No. 6,751,603) in view of Zou et al. (“Zou,” U.S. Patent No. 6,246,983). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 1, 12, 13, 15, 20, 29, 30, 32, 37, 40 and 41 have been amended to further define the invention.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method of producing custom output in response to user input and recites, among other limitations:

- a) receiving an input code from the wireless Internet-enabled device via a web interface of a server computer, the input code associated with one of the plurality of user entry buttons and representing user input provided at the wireless Internet-enabled device by activation of the user entry button;
- b) locating in a programmable device at least one user-specified output character associated with the user entry button, in response to receipt of the input code, the programmable device storing a plurality of user-specified output characters associated with the plurality of user entry buttons;

Amended independent claim 20 is directed to an apparatus for producing custom output in response to user input and recites, among other limitations:

- a) a receiving interface operable to receive an input code . . . the input code associated with one of the plurality of user entry buttons and representing user input provided at the wireless Internet-enabled device by activation of the user entry button;
- b) a programmable device . . . storing at least one user-specified output character associated with the user entry button; and
- c) a processor circuit . . . operable to locate in said programmable device at least one user-specified output character associated with the user entry button . . .

Amended independent claim 37 is directed to an apparatus for producing custom output in response to user input and recites, among other limitations:

- a) means for receiving an input code . . . the input code associated with one of the plurality of user entry buttons and representing user input provided at the wireless Internet-enabled device by activation of the user entry button;
- b) means for storing at least one user-specified output character associated with the user entry button;
- c) means for locating . . . at least one user-specified output character associated with the user entry button, in response to receipt of the input code representing said user entry button;

As discussed in the specification, a wireless device 50 accesses a server 18 via a communication network 30, such as the Internet. See, Figure 1, Specification, page 6, lines 4-14. The server 18 includes a web interface to permit input codes associated with user entry buttons of the wires device to be received from the wireless device 50 via the Internet 30. See, Figures 1 and 2, Specification, page 3, lines 6-12, page 7, line 25 to page 8, line 4, page 9, lines 7-11 and page 10, lines 20-21. Each user entry button on the wireless device 50 may be associated with user-specified output characters stored in a programmable device 12 of server 18. See, Figures 4 and 5, Specification, page 3, lines 6-12, page 6, lines 22-27, page 8, lines 18-21 and page 9, lines 19-23. When a user entry button is activated on the wireless device, a user-specified output character(s) previously associated with the user entry button is provided. See, Specification, page 11, line 28 to page 12, line 1. Accordingly, the system allows a users to specify their own custom output for user entry buttons on the wireless device and provide a

degree of customization to the use of the Internet-enabled wireless device. See, Specification, page 2, lines 6-9, page 3, lines 12-15, page 6, lines 18-29 and page 9, lines 19-23.

In contrast, the combination of Bauer and Zou does not teach, suggest or disclose, associating at least one user-specified output character with a user entry button on a wireless Internet-enabled device, storing a plurality of user-specified output characters associated with the plurality of user entry buttons or locating at least one user-specified output character associated with a user entry button. Rather, Bauer is related to data file retrieval and teaches a method of finding and selecting a data file using an autocomplete process. See, Bauer, Abstract, col. 1, lines 8-10, col. 2, lines 28-29 and col. 4, lines 20-22. In Bauer, a user may enter a character or character string which is compared to the file names of the data files to identify file names that include a character or character string that matches the character or character string input by the user. See, Bauer, Figure 2, col. 2, lines 54-60, col. 3, lines 16-21 and col. 4, lines 37-40. The identified file names that match may be displayed to the user. See, Bauer, Abstract, col. 2, lines 60-61 and col. 4, lines 59-65. The file name search may be repeated when the user enters additional characters to the character string. See, Bauer, Abstract, col. 4, lines 42-45 and col. 5, lines 24-29. As discussed in an example in Bauer at col. 9, line 15 to col. 11, line 50, a user may enter the character "p." This character is then compared to the files names to identify file names that, for example, start with "p." If the user then enters an "a," so that the character string is "pa," the character string "pa" is compared to the file names to identify file names which have characters that match "pa." In addition, Zou also does not teach or suggest associating at least one user-specified output character with a user entry button on a wireless Internet-enabled device, storing a plurality of user-specified output characters associated with the plurality of user entry buttons or locating at least one user-specified output character associated with a user entry button. Accordingly, claims 1, 20 and 37 are believed to be allowable over the combination of Bauer and Zou.

Claims 3-16 and 44 depend from amended claim 1 and incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 1 and are therefore allowable over Bauer in view of Zou for, among other reasons, the same reasons as given above with respect to amended claim 1. Claims 22-36 and 45 depend from amended claim 20 and incorporate all of the limitations of

amended claim 20 and are therefore allowable over Bauer in view of Zou for, among other reasons, the same reasons as given above with respect to amended claim 20.

Amended independent claim 40 is directed to an apparatus for producing user-specified output characters in response to input codes and recites, among other limitations a web server programmed to produce at least one user-specified output character associated with one of the plurality of user entry buttons in response to receipt of an input code associated with the user entry button.

Amended independent claim 41 is directed to an e-mail system and recites, among other limitations:

a) a web server operable to establish communications with web-communicating input devices using the World Wide Web, each web-communicating input device having a plurality of user entry buttons; . . .

c) at least one of said web server and said e-mail server being programmed to produce at least one user-specified output character associated with one of the plurality of user entry buttons of one of the web-communicating input devices . . . in response to receipt of an input code associated with the user entry button. . .

As discussed in the specification, a wireless device 50 accesses a server 18 via a communication network 30, such as the Internet. See, Figure 1, Specification, page 6, lines 4-14. Each user entry button on the wireless device 50 may be associated with user-specified output characters. See, Figures 4 and 5, Specification, page 3, lines 6-12, page 6, lines 22-27, page 8, lines 18-21 and page 9, lines 19-23. When a user entry button is pressed on the wireless device, a user-specified output character(s) previously associated with the user entry button is provided. See, Specification, page 11, line 28 to page 12, line 1. Accordingly, the system allows a users to specify their own custom output for user entry buttons on the wireless device and provide a degree of customization to the use of the Internet-enabled wireless device. See, Specification, page 2, lines 6-9, page 3, lines 12-15, page 6, lines 18-29 and page 9, lines 19-23.

In contrast, as discussed above with respect to amended claims 1, 20 and 37, the combination of Bauer and Zou does not teach, suggest or disclose associating at least one user-specified output character with a user entry button on a web-communicating input device or producing at least one user-specified output character associated with a user entry button in response to an input code associated with the user entry button. Accordingly, claims 40 and 41 are believed to be allowable over Bauer in view of Zou.

Claims 42 and 43 depend from amended claim 41 and incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 41 and are therefore allowable over Bauer in view of Zou for, among other reasons, the same reasons as given above with respect to amended claim 41.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3-16, 20, 22-27 and 40-45 are believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of claims 1, 3-16, 20, 22-27 and 40-45 is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-19 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer in view and Zou and further in view of Smith ("Smith," U.S. Patent No. 6,490,343). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 17-19 depend from amended claim 1 and incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 1 and are therefore allowable over Bauer in view of Zou and Smith for, among other reasons, the same reasons as given above with respect to amended claim 1. Claims 34-36 depend from amended claim 20 and incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 20 and are therefore allowable over Bauer in view of Zou and Smith for, among other reasons, the same reasons as given above with respect to amended claim 20.

Accordingly, claims 17-19 and 34-36 are believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of claims 17-19 and 34-36 is respectfully requested.

2. Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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